

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A guide wire comprising:

(a) a core wire formed with a mounting portion at a distal end portion and having a distal end;

(b) a plurality of coil wires being fitted onto the mounting portion substantially in tandem, and having different mechanical properties, ~~the~~ adjacent coil wires being connected with each other at the corresponding ends thereof, said plurality of coil wires including a ~~most distal coil wire~~ first coil wire having a distal end extending from the distal end of the core wire in the proximal direction of the guide wire and a second coil wire in tandem with the first coil wire and having a distal end extending from a proximal end of the first coil wire in the proximal direction of the guide wire, and

(c) a distal end tip formed into a solid semi-spherical shape with its spherical surface being a distal end surface of the core wire and fixed to the respective distal ends of the core wire and ~~the most distal~~ said first coil wire,

wherein one of the corresponding ends of ~~the~~ adjacent coil wires is formed into a tapered portion gradually reducing in outer diameter toward said end,

~~and wherein~~ the other one of the corresponding ends is formed into a receiving end portion into which the tapered portion is inserted,

~~and wherein~~ the length of the insertion of the tapered portion into the receiving end portion is 2% to 40% of the whole length of the coil wire having the receiving end portion, and

the pitches of the receiving end portion of the coil wire are formed to be larger than those of the remaining portion thereof.

2. (original) A guide wire according to Claim 1, wherein the mounting portion of the core wire comprises:

(a) a plurality of transitional portions continuously disposed in the axial direction, and reduced gradually in outer diameter toward the distal end; and

(b) a distal end portion continuously disposed distally from the most distal transitional portion, and formed into a plate shape,

wherein the taper ratio of the most proximal transitional portion is larger than that of other transitional portions.

3. (original) A guide wire according to Claim 1, wherein the coil wire positioned on the proximal side out of the adjacent coil wires is formed with a tapered portion.

4 - 5. (canceled)

6. (original) A guide wire according to Claim 1, wherein the most distal coil wire is formed of a radiopaque material.